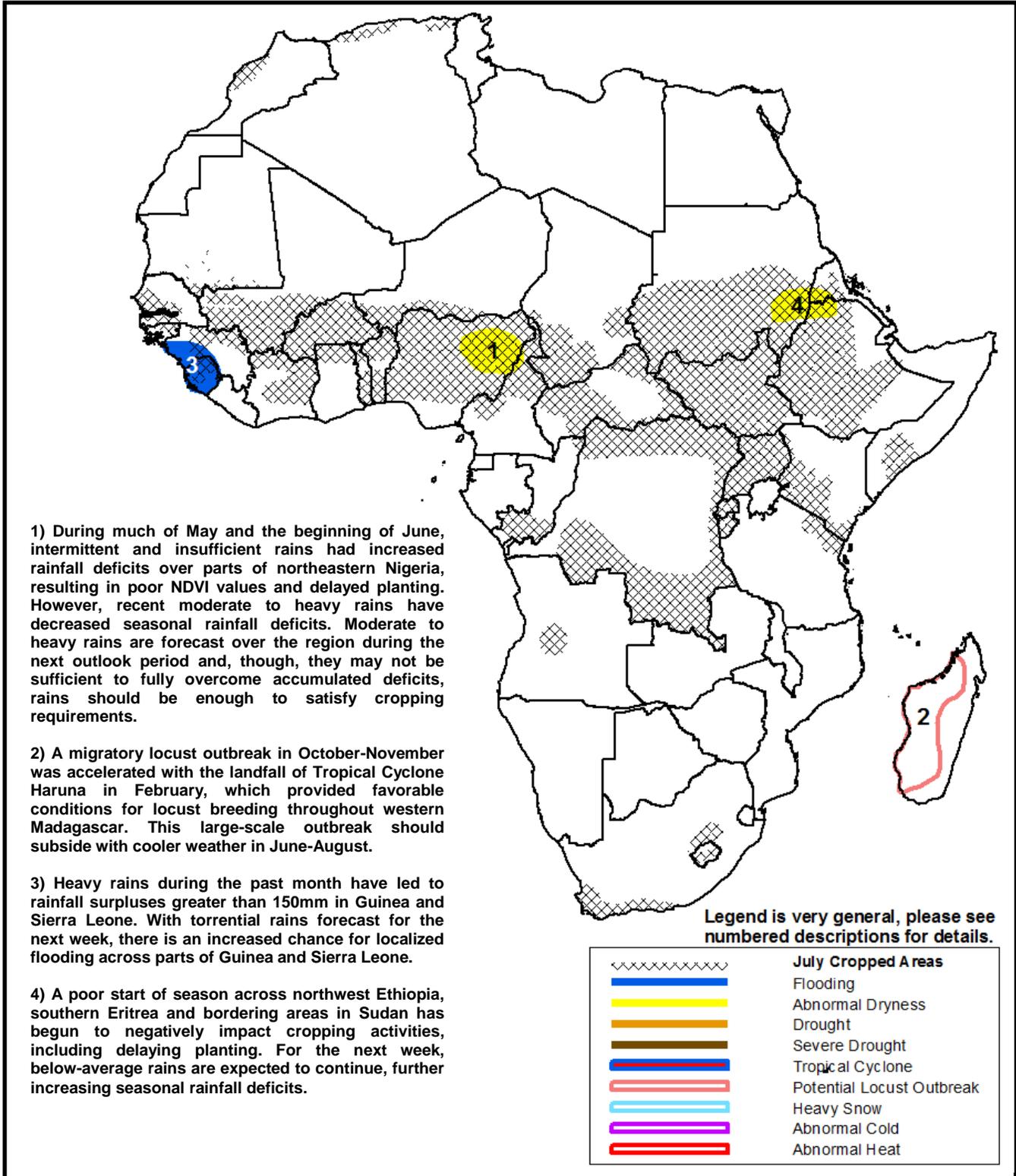


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 11 – July 17, 2013

- Moderate to heavy rains continue to push north across the Sahel.
- Moderate seasonal rainfall deficits grow across northwestern Ethiopia, southern Eritrea and bordering Sudan.



Widespread moderate rain is observed in West Africa.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) was observed across West Africa. Moderate rains (20-40mm) extended as far north as central/northern Mali and southern Mauritania, indicative of the seasonal progression of the ITCZ. The heaviest rain (>75mm) was observed in coastal Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. The abundant weekly rains in Guinea and Sierra Leone have led to growing thirty-day rainfall surpluses (>150mm), which have increased the risk for flooding. Recent rains in northern Nigeria and western Mali have reduced thirty-day rainfall deficits and improved cropping activities. In contrast, several weeks of below-average rains across bi-modal areas in Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin have led to developing thirty-day rainfall deficits (25-100mm) (**Figure 1**).

Due to the poor seasonal progression of rains across the Sahel during May and June, dry conditions developed across northern Nigeria and western Mali. However, recent rains have helped crops recover in Mali and have met crop requirements in Nigeria. The impact of the previously poor rains is evident in low Moisture Index (MI) values across West Africa during the third dekad of June. Lower MI values extend across western Mali, Burkina Faso and northeastern Nigeria. However, due to recent rains, MI values have risen across central and northwestern Nigeria. Farther south, poor recent rains in Ghana have led to decreasing MI values (**Figure 3**).

For the next week, rainfall is forecast to be heavy (>50mm) across Guinea, Sierra Leone and coastal Nigeria. Moderate rains (20-50mm) are expected elsewhere across West Africa and the Sahel. In contrast, light rains (<15mm) are forecast for much of Niger.

Rainfall deficits grow in northeast Ethiopia and Sudan.

During the past week, heavy rains (>50mm) were observed across eastern/central Ethiopia and eastern South Sudan. Farther north, moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) was recorded across the Darfur region of Sudan. In contrast, light rain (<10mm) fell in eastern Sudan. Over the past thirty days, rains have been below-average (50-150mm) across the Tigray and northern Amhara provinces of Ethiopia and bordering regions in Sudan and Eritrea. Poor and temporally inconsistent rains have dominated the start of Kiremt rains in these regions, though seasonal rains only generally begin across northwestern Ethiopia during the middle of June. The poor start to seasonal rains has negatively impacted agricultural activities. Farther south, erratic seasonal rain, including extended dry spells, in Uganda had led to growing thirty-day rainfall deficits (25-100mm); however, rains during the past week were moderate (**Figure 3**), providing relief. For the next week, below-average rains are forecast for already-drier than average regions in northwest Ethiopia, Eritrea and bordering Sudan, likely increasing seasonal deficits. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) is forecast for western Sudan and South Sudan.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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